

Afterschool Snack Program

The Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 enhances nutrition benefits for all children by authorizing reimbursement for snacks served to children through age 18 who participate in programs organized to provide after school care. The intent of these provisions is to assist schools to operate organized programs of care which include education or enrichment activities known to help reduce or prevent children's involvement in juvenile crime or other high risk behavior. This authority may be exercised by schools through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). These legislative provisions became effective October 1, 1998.

Eligible Programs

To be eligible to qualify for reimbursement under the NSLP, after school care programs must meet the following criteria:

1. They must be run by a school that is eligible to operate the NSLP.
2. The purpose of these programs must be to provide care in after school settings. To qualify under this provision, these programs must be organized to provide children with regularly scheduled activities in a setting that is structured and supervised.
3. Eligible programs must include education or enrichment activities in organized, structured, and supervised environments. It must be stressed that any extracurricular activities such as the school choir, debate team, drama society, et al. can only qualify to participate under this provision if their basic purpose is to provide after school care as defined above. It must be emphasized that under no circumstances can organized athletic programs engaged in interscholastic sports be approved as after school care programs under this provision. However, while athletic teams participating in interscho-

lastic sports programs may not be approved, programs which include supervised athletic activity along with education or enrichment activities may participate. The key would be that they are open to all and do not limit membership for reasons other than space or security considerations, or, where applicable, licensing requirements.

Eligible Sites

Any school that is eligible to operate the NSLP may be reimbursed for snacks served on or after October 1, 1998, to eligible children in eligible after school care programs. The after school program must be operated by the school and not some other organization, although the school does not have to use the school's personnel or regular school facilities. However, the school must retain final administrative and management responsibility for the program, including the program site. Furthermore, the school food authority for the school must be the party that enters into the agreement with the State Agency (SA) and must assume full responsibility for meeting all program requirements. The school may then, if it wishes, arrange with another organization to perform the day-to-day operations. For example, the PTA could operate the program under an arrangement with the school.

It is important to note that there is no Federal statutory requirement that otherwise eligible organizations receive Federal, State, or local licensing or approval as a condition of eligibility. Therefore, if a school is offering an approved after school care program for children as described above, it does not have to be licensed separately to provide day care unless there is a State or local requirement for licensing. If a State or local jurisdiction does require licensing, then these facilities would need to be licensed in order to participate in this program. However, facilities that are not required to be licensed must meet State or local health and safety standards.

Reimbursement

Schools may claim reimbursement for one snack, per child, per day. Children are eligible to participate through age 18 and, if a student's nineteenth birthday occurs during the school year, reimbursement may be claimed for snacks served to that student during the remainder of the school year. Reimbursement may also be claimed for individuals, regardless of age, who are determined by the State Agency (SA) to be mentally or physically disabled.

Sites located in areas served by a school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free or reduced-price meals are eligible to receive reimbursement at the free rate for snacks served to all children eligible for snacks, regardless of each individual child's eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches and breakfasts. Area eligibility for the after school care programs will follow the Summer Food Service Program's (SFSP) policies for area eligibility using school data. Schools determined to be area eligible for the SFSP would also be area eligible as after school care facilities.

Sites which are not in areas served by a school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free or reduced-price meals must count meals and claim reimbursement by type (free, reduced-price, and paid), and must have documentation of eligibility for all meals served free or at a reduced-price. Under no circumstances may a school charge children for snacks claimed at the free reimbursement rate. Charges for reduced-price snacks may not exceed 15 cents.

Times of Operation

Afterschool snack reimbursement applies only to programs that provide care for children after their school day has ended. Under no circumstances may snacks be reimbursed in programs operated before or during the child's school day. Schools are not eligible to receive reimbursement under this provision for snacks served on weekends or holidays, including vacation periods. However,

children's eligibility is based on when their scheduled school day ends and not on whether or not the school continues in session. For example, if a kindergarten program ends at noon but the children remain in school under a care program as described above, snacks served to these children may be reimbursed under this provision. The same would be true for older children enrolled in schools that have split sessions. If children enrolled in the early session remain on campus to participate in an approved after school care program, they may receive reimbursable snacks even though the school continues to operate a later academic session.

Additional Requirements

Schools wishing to participate in the Afterschool Snack Program must provide sufficient information to enable the SA to determine whether or not the program is eligible and, if so, whether or not it qualifies for free reimbursement for all meals based on area eligibility. Upon approval, the SA must complete and/or amend an agreement with the school food authority to provide for the requirements of an after school meal supplement. All relevant provisions in the agreement apply to the after school care activities, including the requirement to comply with program regulations. The SA has the responsibility to review these operations as part of its general oversight of the NSLP.

Monitoring

Local SFAs are required to monitor each site two times per year. One of these on-site monitoring visits must be completed during the first four weeks of operation. These reviews are subject to audit and/or State and Federal review and must be fully documented. Form 1 Section 16 provides a prototype form which may be used to document the monitoring visits or local SFAs may develop other systems or review instruments to be used to meet the requirement. A full-size version of this form for printing may be found in Section 27.

Form 1 Section 16 On-site Review *After-school Snack Program*

Date: _____ First Review ☐ Second Review ☐

School District _____ Program Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Reviewer: _____

	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Are rosters or sign-in sheets maintained?			
Are daily snack counts taken? <input type="checkbox"/> by category—free, reduced, and paid? <input type="checkbox"/> all free as an "area eligible" site *code roster to avoid overt identification			
Are daily production records/menus maintained?			
Do snacks meet reimbursement menu requirements?			
Were daily income records maintained for cash collected, if applicable?			
Were claims for reimbursement correctly filed?			

Signature of Reviewer

[illegible]

Record Keeping

School food authorities participating under this provision must maintain the following records:

1. If all meals are claimed free, documentation must be maintained showing that the site is located in an area served by a school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled students are certified eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
2. For all other sites, documentation of free and reduced-price eligibility for all children for whom free and reduced-price snacks are claimed must be on file.
3. Meal counts (total number of snacks for those sites qualifying for free reimbursement for all children, meal counts by type for other sites) and documentation of individual children's attendance on a daily basis. Names of participating children must be included in this information. Form 2 Section 16 provides a prototype roster that SFAs may use to provide this information.

[illegible]

A full size form is provided in Section 27 for printing.

5. Documentation of compliance with meal pattern requirements. Form 3 Section 16 provides a prototype monthly production record form which may be used to document this information. A full-size form for printing may be found in Section 27.

Content of Meals

Snacks served under this provision must meet the meal pattern for snacks set forth in the *Code of Federal Regulations*, 7 CFR sections 210.10(n) and 210.10a(j). Portions for children ages 13 through 18 shall be no less than the portions stipulated for children ages 6 through 12. We recommend that schools offer larger portions for older children (ages 13-18) based on their greater food energy requirements if financial resources are available.

Afterschool Snacks Meal Pattern

The Afterschool Snacks meal pattern is based on the nutritional needs of children ages 6 to 12 years.

Two different components from the four listed must be served:

Milk, fluid, 1 cup (8 ounces)

Meat or Meat alternate, 1 ounce

Fruit or Vegetable or full-strength juice, 3/4 cup

Grains/Breads, 1 serving

Because Afterschool Snacks are available for children through the age of 18 years, additional foods may be needed to meet the calorie and nutrient needs of children ages 13-18 years.

Sample Menus are shown in Table 1 Section 16.

Table 1 Section 16
Sample Afterschool Snack Menus

Snack Item	Component Group
Lowfat Chocolate Milk (8 fl. oz.) Banana (1 medium)	Milk F/V
Apple Juice (¾ cup) Lowfat American Cheese Cubes (1 oz.)	F/V Meat/MA
Peanut Butter Sandwich • Wheat Bread (.9 oz.) • Peanut Butter (2 tbsp.) • Jelly (1 tbsp.)	Grains/Breads Meat/MA
Lowfat Milk (8 fl. oz.) Graham Crackers (.9 oz.)	Milk Grains/Breads
Lowfat Flavored Yogurt (4 oz.) Sliced Peaches (¾ cup)	Meat/MA F/V
Orange Juice (¾ cup) Pretzel Sticks (.9 oz.)	F/V Grains/Breads
Lowfat Milk (8 fl. oz.) Oatmeal Raisin Cookie (2.2 oz.)	Milk Grains/Breads
Pineapple Chunks (¾ cup) Bagel (.9 oz.) with light cream cheese (1 oz.)	F/V Grains/Breads
Apple Juice (¾ cup) Tortilla Chips (.9 oz.) with Salsa (¼ cup)	F/V Grains/Breads
Lowfat Chocolate Milk (8 fl. oz.) Raisin Bread (.9 oz.) with light cream cheese (1 oz.)	Milk Grains/Breads

Questions Answers

1. Q: How can children benefit from the snack service?

A: Afterschool snacks help ensure that children receive the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow.

2. Q: Is my after school care program eligible?

A: In order for a site to participate, your SFA must run the NSLP. Additionally, the after school care program must provide children with regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities in a supervised environment. The afterschool snack program must be operated by the school and not some other organization. Other facilities and personnel may be used in the program, but the school retains final administrative and management responsibility for the program, including the program site. Only the school food authority can enter into the agreement and must assume full responsibility for meeting all program requirements.

3. Q: How much money will my school get for serving snacks?

A: Snacks served in after school care programs that are “area eligible” will be reimbursed at the free rate, regardless of an individual student’s eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches. Snacks served in after school care programs that are not area eligible will be reimbursed at the free, reduced-price, and paid rate depending on each individual student’s eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. These rates are adjusted annually.

4. Q: How is “area eligible” defined?

A: An after school care program site is “area eligible” if it is located at a school or in the attendance area of a school where at least 50

percent of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

5. Q: When may snacks be served?

A: Congress intended this provision to apply to snacks served after an educational activity. The educational activity must be an integral part of the curriculum (i.e., regularly scheduled school day). If no regularly scheduled educational activity is taking place, as is generally the case on weekends, holidays, and vacation days, reimbursement cannot be claimed for snacks served on those days. Note that the regular school day must be over before students are eligible for reimbursable snacks. Thus, the term “after school” means exactly that. School must take place first.

6. Q: Do after school enrichment activities, such as planned athletic activities (walking groups, tennis, basketball skills, exercise bikes, fun run, tag games, etc.) regularly scheduled after school qualify as days when afterschool snacks can be claimed?

A: Yes. These activities qualify as enrichment activities because they are

- supervised;
- regularly scheduled activities;
- after a regular school day;
- that involve building personal skills such as leadership, teamwork, and self sufficiency.

It is more than just the physical activity that must be taken into consideration. Group activities that involve interaction with others are important socialization activities and considered enrichment.

Notes: